Password Information and Policies

Category: Security & Logging In

DRAFT

This article is being reviewed for completeness and technical accuracy.

This article outlines the processes and rules for getting your default password and changing your password.

Obtaining Your Password

If you are a new user and don't know your default installation password for the NAS high-performance computing systems, please call the NAS Control Room at 1-800-331-USER (8737) or 1-650-604-4444.

If you already have an account on a NAS system, and you are approved to get an account on another machine, your password on the new machine is your current "lou" password. If you do not remember this password, a Control Room analyst will provide you with a new default password.

NOTE: Due to security requirements, you must provide the Control Room analysts with a) the correct answer to a security question that you have already submitted to NAS, or b) the analyst must be able reach you at the phone number listed on your account request form. If your phone number has changed due to office moves or reorganizations, your PI must contact the Control Room stating the reason for the change via phone or FAX. The FAX number is 650-604-1777. If your PI is unavailable, your branch chief or division chief may do this for you.
Once you have been given a default password, you will be prompted to change it once you log in to a NAS system.

Password Creation Rules

Your password is vulnerable to attack since it can be guessed. Follow the rules below when creating your NAS passwords:

1. Never use a password at NAS that has ever been used by you anywhere else, and never use the password that you create for NAS anywhere else, ever.

2. A password must contain a minimum of 12 characters. It must contain one character each from at least three of the following character sets: uppercase letters, lowercase letters, numbers, and special characters.

3. Use non-trivial passwords; examples of "trivial" passwords that you may not use include, but are not limited to:

    ♦ your user ID
    ♦ a dictionary word of any language or a dictionary word with numbers appended or prepended to it
    ♦ a password either wholly or predominately composed of the following: user ID, owner name, birthdate, Social Security Number, family member or pet's name, name spelled backwards, or other personal information
    ♦ a contractor name
    ♦ a division or branch name
    ♦ repetitive or keyboard patterns (for example, "abc#ABC", "1234", "qwer", "mnbvc", "aaa#aaaa")
    ♦ the name of any automobile or sport team
    ♦ the name of any vendor product or nickname for a product
4. A new password cannot be any of your last 24 passwords.

5. Once you are successful in changing a password, you have to wait at least 7 days to change it again.
6. Passwords must be changed every 60 days.

Never share your password with anyone. For more information, see Account Policies and the Acceptable Use Statement.

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The HEC Environment -> Security & Logging In -> Password Information and Policies
http://www.nas.nasa.gov/hecc/support/kb/entry/127/?ajax=1